



**STATE OF MONTANA  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
POLICY DIRECTIVE**

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| Policy No. DOC 4.5.2                         | Subject: <b>RESPONSIBLE HEALTH AUTHORITY</b> |
| Chapter 4: FACILITY/PROGRAM SERVICES         | Page 1 of 2                                  |
| Section 5: Health Care for Secure Facilities | Effective Date: Oct. 1, 1997                 |
| Signature: /s/ Bill Slaughter, Director      | Revision Date: April 18, 2006                |

## **I. POLICY**

The Department of Corrections will provide constitutionally mandated, quality health care to adult and youth offenders in Department and contracted secure facilities.

## **II. APPLICABILITY**

The secure facilities that include Riverside and Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facilities, Montana State Prison, Montana Women's Prison, Treasure State Correctional Training Center, and the private and regional facilities contracted to the Department of Corrections.

## **III. REFERENCES**

- A. *ACA Standards for Juvenile Correctional Facilities, 2003.*
- B. *National Commission on Correctional Health Care Standards for Health Services in Prisons, 2003*

## **IV. DEFINITIONS**

Health Care – All necessary services including medical, mental health, and dental care.

Medical Director – The physician designated by the Department director to oversee the health care of all offenders under Department jurisdiction.

Chief Facility Health Officer – The health authority or nursing supervisor responsible for the facility health care services.

Health Care Providers – Licensed health care providers (e.g., physicians, nurses, psychiatrists, dentists, and mental health practitioners), including contracted or fee-for-service providers, responsible for offender health care and treatment.

Health Care Staff – Includes licensed health care providers and non-licensed health care staff (e.g., medical records staff, health care aides) responsible for offender health care administration and treatment.

Facility Administrator – The official, regardless of local title (administrator, warden, superintendent), ultimately responsible for the facility or program operation and management.

Health Policy Team – A team consisting of the Department medical director, dental director, mental health or psychiatric representative, health services bureau chief, managed care RN, chief facility health officer, and facility administrator.

Medical Protocol – A process authorized by the medical director by which medical services are

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provided for a specific condition.

Drug Formulary – A written list of prescribed and non-prescribed medications available in Department health care programs.

## **V. DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVES**

### **A. Health Policy Team**

1. The Department health policy team will:
  - a. develop, revise, and monitor the implementation of Department health policies, procedures, protocols, and managed care policies;
  - b. review and approve each facility's policies, procedures, and protocols;
  - c. enforce the drug formulary;
  - d. make medical, dental and mental health judgments based on policies and protocols;
  - e. provide policy guidance and oversight to offender health care providers;
  - f. monitor the level and quality of facility health services to ensure compliance with all applicable standards;
  - g. oversee the Department's health-related, continuous quality improvement program;
  - h. provide professional direction and leadership; and
  - i. guide the Department's compliance with adult and youth health-related legal standards.

### **B. Health Authority Requirements**

1. Written job descriptions or contracts will govern the chief facility health officer and medical director responsibilities.
2. The chief facility health officer and medical director will coordinate with each other and facility health care staff to ensure quality offender health care.
3. The medical director will:
  - a. render the final medical judgments for offenders under Department jurisdiction;
  - b. review community health care provider treatment recommendations; and
  - c. will *not* typically be involved in routine day-to-day health care judgments.
4. Department health care providers will:
  - a. function within the guidelines of their respective scopes of practice; and
  - b. will not place any restrictions on a physician's routine practice of medicine.

## **VI. CLOSING**

Questions concerning this policy should be directed to the Department medical director or health services bureau chief.